

New Britain Herald

HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY

Issued Daily (Sunday Excepted)

At Herald Bldg., 17 Church Street

Subscription Rates

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play. The public, having become accustomed to reading of plagiarism suits and the infallible decisions that plagiarism did not in fact exist, will be inclined to dismiss the claim of the woman author who has brought suit against America's leading dramatist as just so much piffle. It may be, as was the case in "Able's Irish Rose," that there is more or less similarity between plots; but as every deliver into things literary knows, there are many such similarities. It is how the plots are handled that makes the difference.

HARD LUCK IN THE MARKET
"If it isn't one thing it is something else," is an old saw that might be applied to the stock market lately. It has been known for some time that there would be a period this spring when money in Wall Street would be tighter than usual, partly due to the necessity of helping interior banks to finance spring agricultural needs. This was partly discounted, as usual, when along comes a break in the wheat price below \$1 a bushel, this for the first time in 15 years.

This means hard times for wheat growers. With wheat at \$1 it meant the growers received only \$0.50 to \$0.75 cents at their local elevators—a sum that is said to be below the average cost of production. We perk our ears to discover what William Allen White, editorializing in the center of the Kansas wheat belt, and who fought so valiantly for Hoover prosperity on the farms, has to say about the tornado of low prices that has hit his native state.

A STATIC POPULATION?
What must have struck the careful reader as an unusually frank statement regarding population possibilities was that part of the farm production report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. From the early days to the present the belief has been widespread that the population of the United States would continue to increase, until in the future it would have a population of, say, half a billion. Indeed, so the fanciful estimates had it, our population would far outrun our available food supply, and we would become a food importing nation.

If Dr. O. E. Baker, the Washington economist, is correct, this will not happen. His thesis is plausible. Since 1920, he shows, the birth rate in the nation has been declining rapidly; and it needs only to continue decreasing four per thousand—which he declares is likely—when the population becomes static. The stationary population will be reached, he declares, in from 50 to 75 years, when the nation's total will stay at between 175,000,000 and 200,000,000 people.

This figure is far removed from the teeming millions that have been prophesied. The outlook comes, too, at a time when farm production has increased per capita and per acre. It leads to the assumption that the United States will never need to become an importer of the more basic foods.

The economist's conclusion as to the reason for the declining birth rate confirms to the explanations given by other scientists and is based upon observation and statistics. The declining birthrate "appears to be associated with the country's increasing prosperity and per capita wealth. In those states where the per capita wealth is larger than the average the birth rate is lower; in states where the per capita wealth is smaller than the average, the birth rate is higher."

ISSUES IN GREAT BRITAIN
The issues in the British elections hinge upon economic questions, and among these unemployment stands pre-eminent. This could scarcely be otherwise in a country where such a large proportion of the population lives upon the government dole, which is made necessary because of the dislocation of business due to the aftermath of the war. An independent observer has summarized the election campaign as follows:

The Conservative party is asking that it be returned to power on the basis of its record during the last four and a half years, which includes the new budget recently submitted to the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston S. Churchill. The Liberal and Labor parties are asking that the Conservative party be turned out of power because of its failure to deal effectively with the problem of unemployment and because of its misadministration of the foreign affairs of the nation.

Unemployment has been made the leading issue of the campaign by the striking plan advanced by Lloyd George eight weeks ago, and by his pledge that the Liberal party, if returned to power, will reduce unemployment to normal proportions within the course of one year, without a cent of cost to the taxpayers. The Liberal party is substantially re-united under the leadership of Lloyd George, who has a \$5,000,000 campaign fund at his disposal, and the party's prospects are conceded to have been materially improved by the announcement of its unemployment plan.

The Labor party, conscious of the fact that it may give the responsibility for administration of the government as a result of the election, has advanced no new projects of a sensational nature. Its program for dealing with unemployment, of which the Liberal plan is in part a duplication, has long been known to the voters. The government has contented itself with ridiculing the Lloyd